PTI cancels rally amid tight security in Quetta

• Authorities deploy security forces, block roads, suspend internet to stop the gathering • Party leader condemns the move as an 'unconstitutional and illegal act'

By Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Authorities in Quetta blocked major roads and suspended internet services on Friday after denying permission for a public meeting by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), prompting the party to cancel its event and condemn the move.

The district administration erected barbed wire fences and used trucks and large containers to block all routes leading toward the planned venue at the Railway Hockey ground and other main intersections.

A heavy contingent of police, Frontier Corps and Balochistan Constabulary personnel established checkpoints at various points, sealing off Bacha Khan Chowk, Manan Chowk, Airport Road and other adjoining roads.

The move caused severe inconvenience for residents, as traffic was completely suspended in the affected areas. Main bazaars and commercial areas also remained closed.

Internet, mobile data and phone services were suspended from the morning until late evening, disrupting businesses and online banking. Access to the Quetta Press Club and the central secretariat of the Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party was also blocked.

Dawood Shah Kakar, the provincial president of PTI in Balochistan, announced the cancellation of the public meeting on Friday afternoon. He strongly condemned the government for not granting permission, calling it an "unconstitutional and illegal act of the local administration."

Mr Kakar alleged that the local administration filled the venue with water and "imposed an unannounced curfew in Quetta".

He said the PTI cancelled its gathering "for the safety of their workers and supporters". Mr Kakar added that a new date for the public meeting in Quetta will be announced soon.

GRIDLOCK after the district administration placed shipping containers to deter a political rally.—APP

BHC issues contempt notice to SSGCL over loadshedding

• Show-cause notices issued to company's officials for contempt of court
• Bench censures utility for violating court orders, cites discrimination against Balochistan's consumers

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court has expressed strong displeasure over prolonged gas loadshedding, inflated billing, and inadequate gas supply in the province, directing the issuance of contempt of court notices to senior officials of the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL).

A two-member bench comprising Chief Justice Rozi Khan Barech and Justice Sardar Ahmad Haleemi issued the orders during the hearing of the case Syed Nazir Ahmed Agha vs. Federation of Pakistan.

The court observed that SSGCL's repeated violations of court orders and its discriminatory treatment of the citizens of Balochistan constitute a clear breach of Articles 25 and 158 of the Constitution.

The bench termed SSGCL's report on gasified areas in Balochistan as unsatisfactory, disappointing, and contrary to court directions. It noted that the company had been instructed to provide detailed data on gas supply in each district and tehsil, but instead merely listed names without fulfilling its responsibility.

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel informed the court that gas outages in Quetta exceed 13 hours daily, while SSGCL continues to cite "maintenance work" as a pretext to recover its financial losses—an act the court described as blatant discrimination against consumers.

A disabled consumer, Nazir Ahmed, presented a copy of a gas bill amounting to Rs500,000, prompting the court's astonishment. He stated that he lives in a small two-room house, yet the bill exceeds his annual income. The court directed Ogra and SSGCL to address such complaints immediately and provide relief to affected consumers.

The court further observed that despite earlier directives to ensure gas supply in the province, SSGCL neither contacted the federal government nor took steps to resolve supply issues. The bench remarked that the company's attitude reflects deliberate negligence of public interest and defiance of judicial orders.

Consequently, the court issued show-cause notices for contempt proceedings to SSGCL's general manager, head of billing, and legal manager, directing them to explain why action should not be taken against them.

The bench also noted that the federal government had approved 30 LPG air-mix plants for Balochistan, which were unjustifiably shut down in 2019, while new plants continue to be established in other provinces. The Chief Secretary of Balochistan, as a member of the SSGCL Board, was directed to raise the issue again in the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) and the Council of Common Interests (CCI) to ensure gas supply to remote districts.

The court further directed Ogra's chairman to explain why Balochistan is being supplied less gas, how the Weighted Average Cost of Gas (WACOG) is calculated, and why Article 158 of the Constitution is being ignored in the process.

The SSGCL was ordered to submit a detailed report on gas consumers, pressure levels, load-shedding schedules, and actions taken against illegal connections in every district and tehsil of Balochistan.

PPP CEC meeting on Article 243 changes

Continued from Page 1

openly expressed its support for the respect and recognition earned by the armed forces, emphasising that this acknowledgement deserves constitutional protection," he said.

"If the amendment to Article 243 had harmed civilian supremacy, I would have been its strongest opponent. The change would neither affect the powers of the president of Pakistan nor undermine civilian supremacy," he added.

However, the PPP chairman reaffirmed his resolve to oppose any amendment aimed at altering the provinces' share in the NFC Award, declaring that, if necessary, the party would build a consensus with other political parties to resist such a proposal.

On two other proposed points of the 27th Amendment — the establishment of constitutional courts and the transfer of judges — Mr Bhutto-Zardari offered conditional support, expressing the hope of engaging all stakeholders to review the PPP's suggestions before reaching a final decision.

Regarding proposed amendments to the transfer of judges, Mr Bhutto-Zardari suggested incorporating a mechanism to make the judicial reforms fairer and counter criticism.

"The Constitution states that the president may transfer a judge with the judge's consent and after consultation with the relevant chief justices. The government's proposal seeks to abolish this consultation process and instead empower a parliamentary committee to make the decision," he explained.

The PPP chairman said the party believed a better approach would be for the president to initiate the process, and that if a judicial commission were to be given a role, that would be acceptable, since it's an appropriate forum.

"However, rather than removing consultation altogether, the chief justices of the relevant courts should be made voting members of the commission when a transfer is being decided," he said.

"They could also invite the relevant judges who have to be transferred to share their opinion on the matter. This way, the process would remain transparent, avoid criticism and provide the amendment with a stronger constitutional cover."

'Oppose old clauses'

Meanwhile, the JUI-F on Friday resolved to oppose the clauses that were dropped from the 26th Amendment, if they were introduced again in the upcoming 27th Amendment. Following a meeting of the JUI-F parliamentary party, Maulana Fazlur Rehman told reporters in Islamabad that until the government shares a draft of the amendment with them, they could not make up their minds.

He recalled that it was his party's efforts that ensured the exclusion of controversial clauses from the previous amendment, adding: "if any of these clauses are brought again it will be considered an insult to parliament and the Constitution".

Referring to proposed changes to Article 243, which governs the appointments of the services chiefs, he said it would be different if the amendment were related to administrative issues. "But if it is intended to weaken democracy, we won't accept it," he said. He also made it clear that his party would oppose any rollback of the 18th Amendment, including changes to the NFC Award or any reduction in the powers of the provinces.

He also echoed the PTI's position, that the current assembly doesn't have a genuine mandate to make such major changes to the Constitution.

The Maulana also slammed the incumbent government for reneging on its commitments regarding vetting of laws by the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII), the elimination of interest (Riba), and the registration of religious seminaries.

PTI contacts

Speaking at a separate news conference, PTI's Asad Qaiser said they were in contact with other opposition parties over the issue.

"Our first meeting was with [JUI-F chief] Maulana Fazlur Rehman, in which we thanked him for his support in the appointment of the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly," he added.

He said if the PPP wished to sustain its "public-oriented" politics, it must reject the entire package of the 27th Amendment without exception.

Mr Qaiser vowed that the PTI would challenge the passage of the 27th Amendment before the courts and would go to the public.

Expressing concern over the recent conduct of the judiciary, the PTI leader said the attitude of the courts had become deeply disappointing.

"When cases are moved or delayed on political grounds or under administrative pressure, it undermines the credibility of the judiciary," he said. "If a larger bench delivers a verdict and it is not implemented, it raises serious questions over the justice system."

Iftikhar A Khan in Islamabad also contributed to this report

Opposition leaders

Continued from Page 1

role in the process.

Speaking on the floor of the Senate on Friday, PTI Senator Azam Swati had expressed concern over the delay in nominating an opposition leader, saying the house was incomplete without one.

Responding to him, the law minister reiterated that the matter was purely an internal affair of the Senate, adding that the chairman must satisfy himself as to who commands the support of the majority within the opposition.

"We have seen times when the leader of the opposition was in jail," he said, referring to Shehbaz Sharif's incarceration when he was opposition leader under the PTI regime, and regretted that at the time, even his production orders were not issued.

He added, however, that he was not suggesting such treatment be repeated.

The minister urged opposition members to meet the Senate chairman in his chambers to find a way forward, and wished them good luck in reaching a consensus.

Soon after his remarks, Awami National Party chief Aimal Wali Khan was given the floor, but was repeatedly interrupted by loud slogans from opposition benches protesting the delay.

"I don't know if they have a problem with me or with you," he quipped, while addressing the chair.

As Aimal Wali continued his speech, PTI senators staged a walkout in protest, though their attempt to point out quorum failed after a headcount confirmed the house was in order.

KP CM's remarks about security forces spark outrage

Continued from Page 1

damaged morale and public safety.

"The intelligence-based operations have been and will remain necessary to protect our people; these are conducted with the sole aim of safeguarding civilians and restoring peace. Political debate must not cross into actions or words that weaken our security institutions," he said.

Mr Afridi should exercise restraint and place the safety and unity of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa above partisan posturing, he continued. "The security situation of our province demands that all political forces stand with our armed forces in pursuit of lasting peace and stability for our people. Ultimately, it is the people who will deliver accountability in the coming elections."

Need for maturity

ANP President Aimal Wali Khan also cautioned Mr Afridi on Friday, reminding him that the position of chief minister required maturity. Mr Khan said taking a collision course by the CM of a province was absolutely not in the interest of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that the chief minister's statement was aimed at inciting religious sentiments and a sane person would not even imagine doing so. His remarks were disrespectful of mosques and would cause further frictions with the state institutions, he noted.

The ANP president said it was CM's responsibility to reduce differences and misunderstandings instead of increasing them further. He questioned what would be the fate of the province in such a situation.

He said that Mr Afridi should fight a constitutional battle for his leadership through courts instead of confrontation and pay attention to the affairs of the province.

He said that the establishment should also respect mandate and the CM must get his protocol. However, he added, Mr Afridi, too, should better realise the importance of his position.

'CM must tender apology'

Meanwhile, Balochistan CM Sarfaraz Bugti strongly reacted to the "irresponsible" statement of the KP CM, describing it as "an attempt to strengthen the enemy's narrative".

He also reminded his KP counterpart that the security forces restored peace from Balochistan to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by sacrificing thousands of lives. He said Mr Afridi should apologise to the nation and the families of the martyrs for his irresponsible statement, as the mockery of security institutions could not be tolerated.

The chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council also condemned CM Afridi's remarks, calling them "misleading".

"The speech made by KP CM regarding mosques is regrettable," Maulana Tahir Ashrafi was quoted as saying. "The statement made by the KP CM is also an attempt to tarnish the image of Pakistan," Maulana Ashrafi said.

'Amendment talk' creates ripples

Continued from Page 1

judges of the FSC could be accommodated on one floor of the IHC.

They confirmed that the process of vacating the third floor of the IHC building is currently underway, with equipment and office materials being shifted to alternate locations.

The move has been described by officials as part of broader administrative realignments currently in progress.

An office order issued by the judicial department of the IHC on Nov 7 reflects the ongoing internal reorganisation related to record management.

'Change of building'

These and related developments reverberated in the Supreme Court too, where during a hearing related to Civil Service Rules, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail of the Constitutional Bench observed that "a change of building" will not reduce their authority.

The observation came after Justice Aminuddin Khan, who was heading the bench, asked senior counsel Faisal Siddiqui how much time he would take to conclude his arguments.

The counsel replied it might take some time, though he wished "the case should end today, since I have no intention of advancing arguments while standing inside the Shariat Court building".

"If the possession of the building has to be taken, then why the FSC only," the counsel continued, "Why the adjacent building (a reference to PM Secretariat) is not an option if at all a building is to be taken over?"

A smiling Justice Mandokhail remarked that there had been some progress in the counsel's favour the previous night.

Mr Siddiqui then remarked he had a strong conviction that nothing adverse would come to harm the SC. "If this is the spirit, then why worry?" Justice Mandokhail quipped.

"We are bound to follow whatever Constitution dictates," Justice Aminuddin Khan added.

The counsel further said, "How grand the judges look while sitting in the Supreme Court's courtroom." He remarked that everybody knows why the FSC was created.

At this point, Justice Mandokhail asserted that a change of building would not reduce any of the court's powers.

Restraining order sought

Meanwhile, Barrister Ali Tahir through a separate petition urged the SC to declare unconstitutional any proposal, bill or discussion that curtails, transfers, suspends, or abolishes the constitutional jurisdiction of the SC under Article 184(3) or the high courts under Article 199.

The petition also sought a restraining order against the federal government, cabinet, parliament, and all other organs or functionaries of the state, pending a final decision.

The federal government, it pleaded, should be asked to refrain from taking any step, legislative, executive, or administrative, aimed at introducing, debating, processing, or passing any bill or proposal, including the proposed 27th Amendment bill.

It stated that the SC's original jurisdiction under Article 184(3) constitutes an essential, inviolable, and non-amenable feature of the Constitution, forming part of its basic structure and fundamental framework. Therefore, no constitutional amendment, legislation, or executive action can lawfully diminish or extinguish this jurisdiction vested in the Supreme Court, the petition argued.

It sought a declaration that any attempt to establish a parallel or superior forum styled as a constitutional court, distinct from or in substitution of the SC or the high courts, would be repugnant to Articles 175 to 191 of the Constitution.

ogdc the energy

OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

PAYMENT OF FINAL CASH DIVIDEND (D-95)

We are pleased to inform our valued shareholders that the Company has electronically credited the final cash dividend @ Rs 5.00 per share, i.e 50% for the year ending June 30, 2025, announced by the board of directors in its meeting held on September 23, 2025 into the designated bank accounts of the shareholders of the Company on November 07, 2025. Shareholders who did not provide valid International Banking Account Number (IBAN) details are requested to communicate their Bank account details to our share registrar M/s CDC Share Registrar Services Limited, CDC House, 99-B, Block 'B', S.M.C.H.S., Main Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi-74400.

Islamabad (Wasim Ahmad)
November 07, 2025 Company Secretary

Oil & Gas Development Company Limited
OGDC Headquarters, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad, Pakistan.
No.271/32

PPL
75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

CREDIT OF FINAL CASH DIVIDEND 2024-25

Final cash dividend @ 25% on Ordinary Shares for the year ended 30th June 2025 has been credited to the bank accounts of the shareholders except those who have not furnished correct or complete bank account details to the Company or the Central Depository Company Limited, as the case may be.

Shareholders who have not received the dividend may visit the Company's Share Registrar, Messrs. FAMCO Share Registration Services (Pvt.) Limited at 8-F, adjacent to Hotel Faran, Nursery, Block 6, P.E.C.H.S., Shahrah-e-Faisal, Karachi, or email them at Info Shares info.shares@famcosrs.com, or call them on +021 3438 0101-5 or +021 34384621-3.

Dividend of shareholders who did not furnish their International Bank Account Number (IBAN) has been withheld by the Company in accordance with applicable law. Claims in respect of withheld dividends may be filed with the Central Depository Company Limited or concerned participants by shareholders who hold shares in CDS, and with Company's Share Registrar by shareholders who hold share certificates. The IBAN of the shareholders must be mentioned at the time of filing a claim.

ALI JAFFAR
Company Secretary
Karachi
8th November 2025

NOTICE TO FAYSAL BANK LIMITED CUSTOMERS

This is to inform you that your existing account(s) and locker at our Faysal Bank Limited, **Quetta Cantt Branch,** is currently located at **Shop No. 12, Jinnah Shopping Complex, Jinnah Road, Quetta Cantt.** (Contact Numbers 081-2820419), is being shifted to and serviced from the below-mentioned address at or around December 8, 2025.

The new address is as mentioned below:
Bank Square Staff College Road Quetta Cantt.

For any queries, please visit or contact our **Quetta Cantt Branch** at the above-given contact details.

For and on behalf of Faysal Bank Limited

www.faysalbank.com faysalbank